

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method of beginning a data exchange over a wireless communication channel between a destination device and a sending device, the method comprising:

waiting, by the sending device, a period of time that is at least as long as a first predetermined time period and detecting no communication on the wireless communication channel;

attempting, by the sending device, to initiate communication to the destination device; and

if the attempt to initiate communication to the destination device proves successful, transmitting, by the sending device and the destination device, a series of packets wherein each two consecutive packet transmissions are separated by no more than a second predetermined time period.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the second predetermined time period is less than the first predetermined time period.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the second predetermined time period is less than the first predetermined time period by at least the minimum duration of a data packet.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the second predetermined time period is less than the first predetermined time period by at least the minimum duration of a data packet and an inter-packet spacing interval.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the second predetermined time period is independent of packet size.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the second predetermined time period is a maximum expected inter-packet duration.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein data packets of the series of packets that are sent by the sending device are of a predetermined length.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein data packets of the series of packets that are sent by the sending device have a predetermined maximum length.

29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein data packets of the series of packets that are sent by the sending device have a maximum length, the maximum length being such that the time duration between packets of the series packets that are sent by the destination device is less than the first predetermined time period.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the destination device is a polling device.

31. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein if the beginning of the period of time during which no communication is detected coincides with the end of a detected transmission, attempting to avoid collisions by delaying a random period before attempting to initiate communication to the destination device.

32. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising immediately attempting to initiate communication to the destination device if traffic on the wireless communication channel is below a predetermined level.

33. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising immediately attempting to initiate communication to the destination device when the sending device does not sense activity on the wireless communication channel, if traffic on the wireless communication channel is below a predetermined level.

34. (New) A method of beginning a data exchange over a wireless communication channel between a destination device and a sending device, the method comprising:

waiting, by the sending device, a period of time that is at least as long as a predetermined time period and detecting no communication on the wireless communication channel, the predetermined time period being at least the maximum expected time span between transmissions from the destination device to a device communicating with the destination device;

attempting, by the sending device, to initiate communication to the destination device; and

if the attempt to initiate communication to the destination device proves successful, transmitting, by the sending device, at least one packet to the destination device.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein transmitting, by the sending device, at least one packet to the destination device comprises transmitting a series of packets to the destination device, the duration of each of the series of packets being such that the destination device may transmit return packets to the sending device between each of the series of packets, the return packets being separated by no more than the predetermined time period.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein each data packet of the at least one packet sent by the sending device has a predetermined length.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the destination device is a polling device.

38. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein if the beginning of the period of time during which no communication is detected coincides with the end of a detected transmission, attempting to avoid collisions by delaying a random period before attempting to initiate communication to the destination device.

39. (New) A method of beginning communication within a wireless communication network among a plurality of devices, the method comprising:

determining whether communication is being performed from a first device of the plurality of devices to another device of the plurality of devices, the communication being performed on a communication channel within the wireless communication network;

initiating communication between the first device and a second device of the plurality of devices after determining that no communication is being performed; and continuing the communication when the communication proves successful.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising determining a level of communication that is being performed from the first device to the second device.